

# Naval Support Activity

**Last Update:** April  
2000

**EPA Region 3**      **EPA ID#** PA3170022104  
Pennsylvania  
Cumberland County **19th** Congressional District

**Other Names:**  
USN Ships Parts Center  
Navy Ships Parts Control  
Center  
Naval Inventory Control  
Point  
Naval Support Activity

## Current Site Status

Sampling for the Phase 2 ecological risk assessment for food web modeling has been completed. The Draft report is expected in Spring 2000. Sediment Sampling for Site 9 is expected to begin in Spring 2000.

## Site Description

The Naval Support Station formerly known as the Naval Inventory Control Point (NAVICP) facility located in Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania is an 824-acre site and is approximately 7 miles west of Harrisburg. In the 1940s, NAVICP provided global management of Navy ship repair parts, and

subsequently undertook additional inventory management responsibilities such as managing conventional ammunition, providing services, and providing maintenance and engineering for the installation. By 1943, 57 semi-permanent warehouses were built. Then in the early 1950s, NAVICP also became a repository for a variety of metal ores received as war payment and reprimand. In Fall 1998, host activities at NAVICP (e.g., environmental and safety services, facilities, and engineering) were transferred to Commander in Charge of Atlantic Fleet (CINCLANTFLT) which resulted in an installation name change to Naval Support Station, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. At this time, NAVICP became a tenant command.

The Navy conducted several investigations from 1984 to 1994. Six areas were identified by the Navy as potential areas of contamination: Carter Road Landfill, Building 904 Landfill, Ball Road Landfill and Burn Pits, Golf Course Landfill, and Buildings 403/404 Solvent Disposal Area, and the Stormwater Drainage Ditch (SWDD). The 4 1/2-acre Carter Road Landfill was used for disposal of construction rubble, medical supplies, and gas mask canisters from 1950 to 1962. The 1-acre Building 904 Landfill was used during the 1950s to dispose of construction debris and medical supplies. Ball Road Landfill and Burn Pits, a 7 1/2-acre area was used from the mid-1940s until 1977. Wastes were dumped into the two pits, doused with gasoline and burned on a weekly basis. Wastes included paints, varnishes, gasoline, oils, medical supplies, paint and solvent containers, asbestos ash, and Stoddard solvent contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). The Golf Course Landfill was a suspected 4-acre area where wastes were deposited and occasionally burned from 1945 to 1946. The area is currently a golf course. The Building 403/404 Solvent Disposal Area is the railroad tracks located between the two buildings. During the 1950s, hazardous wastes, including PCB-contaminated soils, Stoddard solvent, and trichloroethene, were poured directly onto the tracks. The SWDD area receives the majority of the stormwater runoff from the base. The drainage ditch is approximately 1.5 miles long. It discharges into Trindle Run (a Pennsylvania cold water fishery) which then flows into the Conodoguinet Creek. Approximately 9,000 people obtain drinking water from public and private wells within 4 miles of the sources at NSS.

## **Site Responsibility**

The site is being addressed through Federal actions.

## **NPL Listing History**

Proposed Date: 01/18/94

Final Date: 05/31/94

## **Threats and Contaminants**

Navy studies identified numerous hazardous substances in the soil and in the ground water at all five areas. Soil and ground water are contaminated with arsenic; heavy metals including mercury, manganese, lead, and cadmium; and pesticides and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). In addition, soil is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Sediments are contaminated with metals, semi-volatiles, and PCBs. Touching or ingesting contaminated soil, ground water, or sediments could pose a health risk.

## **Cleanup Progress**

In 1991, a partial removal action in the first 1/4 mile of the SWDD was conducted in which 5,744 tons of PCB-contaminated sediment was removed. A second removal of 1,305 tons of PCB-contaminated sediment was conducted in 1993 at three hot spots in the lower portion of the ditch. Contaminated sediments were disposed of at a RCRA permitted facility in Model City, NY. In 1993, the Navy initiated on-site bioremediation as its selected remedy for contaminated soil in the Burn Pits. However, there were several problems with the project and treatment system and as a result, the Navy terminated the cleanup contract for convenience in 1994.

Approximately 20,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil were removed from the pits while another 10,000 cubic yards remain in one pit. The Navy, EPA and PADEP are evaluating remedial options for the on-site soil at the Burn Pits based upon data collected in 1994. The agencies have set a goal to issue a proposed plan for contaminated soil at the Burn Pits early in 1998.

Bioremediation activities at the Ball Road Landfill and Burn Pits Area, as well as the removal actions at the Stormwater Drainage Ditch have reduced some of the risk of exposure to hazardous wastes.

The Navy, EPA, PADEP, along with the US FWS and NOAA developed a work plan to investigate ecological risk screening basewide at ten sites. Field work began in Spring 1997 for Step 1 of the ecological risk assessment process. The draft report has been submitted and reviewed by the Navy, EPA and PADEP. Constituents of Potential Concern (COPCs) were identified and indicated a potential for ecological effects. EPA requested that food-web modeling be performed for all identified COPCs. A Phase 2 ecological risk assessment for food web modeling has been initiated and a draft workplan is under review by the agencies. Due to a funding freeze at the Navy organization, the field work originally planned for Spring 1999 is expected to start in Fall 1999.

The Navy, EPA and the State initiated site inspections at four sites (Sites 12, 13, 14, and 15). Sampling results indicate that Site 13 would not require further remedial actions. The Navy, EPA and PADEP plan on conducting Removal Actions (i.e., excavation/off-site disposal) for Sites 14 and 15. Contaminated soils will be excavated to mitigate Lead (at Site 14) and PCB (at Site 15) and other metals in the soil from migrating to ground water. Final determination for any response actions at Site 12 is pending on the results of the Phase 2 ecological risk assessment work.

The Navy, EPA and State have actively implemented Partnering at the site. This has lead to the reevaluation of the bioremediation activities at Site 3 (Ball Road Landfill and Burn Pits). On September 1998, a removal action was conducted at Site 3 to remove approximately 25,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil from this site. The purpose of the removal action was to prevent migration of contaminants to ground water and prevent maintenance workers from coming into contact with the soil.

The Navy, EPA and State issued a proposed plan for Site 1 (Carter Road Landfill) in October 1997. A public meeting was held and no comments were received. A draft ROD for Site 1 is under review. Based on uncovered new information for Site 1, a different remedy (Institutional Controls) was subsequently selected and a new proposed plan was issued for Site 1 in August 1998. A public meeting was held on September 2, 1998. No comments were received during the public comment period or public meeting. A ROD for Site 1 was signed on September 30, 1998.

A Draft Proposed Plan is under review by the partnering team. It is expected that a final proposed plan will be completed by April 2000.

## Contacts

Remedial Project Manager

Todd Richardson

215-814-5264

[richardson.todd@epa.gov](mailto:richardson.todd@epa.gov)

Remedial Project Manager

Yazmine Yap-Deffler

215-814-3369

[yap-deffler.yazmine@epa.gov](mailto:yap-deffler.yazmine@epa.gov)

Detailed public files (Administrative Record) on EPA's actions and decisions for this site can be examined at the following location:

Mechanicsburg Area Library

51 West Simpson Street

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055